

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 15 No. 2

July 2005

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*Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of The Villager. The Villager cannot be held responsible for any goods or services advertised in the magazine*

## Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

### Sundays

**2nd Sunday in the month:**

**Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick  
**Martley Ramblers** meet Church car park

**3rd Sunday in the month:**

**Walking Not Working with the Path-or-Nones.** Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help survey the footpaths

### Mondays

**1st Monday in the month:**

**Martley Parish Council** 8pm Memorial Hall

### Tuesdays

**Short Mat Bowling** 2.30pm Martley Memorial Hall (2pm winter months)

**Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship** 2.30pm  
2nd Tuesday in the month (usually)

### Wednesdays

**Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing**  
7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

*Enquiries:* Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

**Martley Folk Club:** 1st Wednesday in the month at The Admiral Rodney

**Martley WI:** 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm Sport Martley

### Thursdays

**Wichenford Wine Club:** 3rd Thursday in the month

**Martley & District Horticultural Society:** last Thursday in the month  
7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall

### Other events:

**Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley**

**Telephone Service:** Mon & Tue 10am—

3pm Thu 10am— 7.30pm **Great Witley**

**& Knightwick Surgeries:** Weds 10am -

4pm - by appt.

01584 810860

See Church Words for details of services

See articles inside for details of special events AND changes of times or dates of regular events

See the Diary page on [www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk) for a complete listing of all forthcoming events (that the Diary page Editor knows about)

*Articles to go in The Villager must be with the Editor by the 1st of the previous month*

# ***OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY***

Visit our website—[www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk)



## ***Martley Parish Council***

Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Martley Parish Council held on Monday 6 June 2005 at the Memorial Hall. Cllr Mr. D. Cropp Chairman.

### The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

Q1. The latest licensing laws may cause problems for the Memorial Hall. The chairman is to visit MHDC in the near future to clarify implementation.

Q2. If any planning application had been received to restore the old mill at Brook Court; the Clerk confirmed that nothing had been received. Q3. Query if an application had been received for a helipad; nothing had been received;

Cllr. Mr. G. Coomby-Jones will investigate the planning requirements

### Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 May 2005

Minute 77-05 the spelling of “Lower Shieling” was amended. With this amendment it was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

### Memorial Playing Field

It was resolved that this Parish Council supports the exception for one event, that animals may be allowed on the playing field under controlled

conditions.

### Reports:

District Councillor’s Report: District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams was not present and no report was given

County Councillor’s Report: County Councillor Mr. A. Davies reported that since the election, several changes in the committee structure have taken place; the cabinet posts have risen from 4 to 6. Ankerdine Hill: the orders for the weight limits are now being done. The newspaper Worcestershire Beacon has been renamed Word on Worcestershire.

### Correspondence:

Included: Sir Michael Spicer: surgery 18 June. MHDC: Planning committee 12 May agenda. MHDC: Community projects grant scheme 2005/6 Pre-School: Grant application and our acknowledgement. Martley CE Primary School: Support for Pre-School grant application. WCC: Temp road closures 2005 Malvern Dist. MHDC: Draft housing strategy comments by 30 June. MHDC: Housing strategy invitation to meeting 16 June. Police Community Consultative Group: Public meeting 8

June 7.30pm. Mr. Reg Snow: Martley Relief In Need Charity ref. notification.

Planning:

Applications received: 05/00631/FUL

The Tegs Pudford Ln: Prop. Garage. Cllr.Mrs. D. Goodyear returned to Planning 16 May 05.

Applications Approved /Refused/Withdrawn: 05/00410/FUL

Quarry Cottage Pudford Lane (conservatory) Approved.

05/00438/FUL Hillside Vineyard (temp carers structure) Withdrawn.

05/00310/FUL Poolfields Cottage Wants Green (sun lounge) Approved.

05/00361/FUL High House Ankerdine Refused. 05/00445/FUL Homeland

Martley (extn.) Approved. 05/00347/FUL Three Acres Willow

Rd. (Stable block) Approved. 05/00440/FUL Fair View

Willow Rd. (Replmnt. Dwelling) Withdrawn. 05/00510/FUL Cherry

Orchard Newtown (Extn garage & conservatory) Approved

Finance:

Six cheques totalling £825.35 were signed. Income May 05: Actual position 9 May 05 £776.78

Parish Paths Warden Report:

No report this month.

Urgent Decisions since last meeting:

None.

Councillor Training:

The clerk requested councillors present to indicate their attendance for the training scheduled for 27 June

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

The recycling bags both clear and purple are often seen littering the village. It was asked if these bags could be delivered in a roll similarly to the black bags; the Clerk to write o MHDC. The caravans at Lower Hollins Farm are still occupied; the Clerk to enquire the situation from MHDC Planning, A Parish Map is required to show the locations of overhanging hedges. Fingerposts are missing from two footpaths; the Paths Warden to be informed. The horse chestnut tree at the weighbridge requires trimming; the lengthman to be asked to inspect.

Nora Parsons Day Centre:

It was resolved to donate £170.00 under Sect 137 of LGA 1972.

Local Project Funding:

The Chairman circulated the latest list of possible projects.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 4 July 2005 at 8 p.m. It was agreed to hold the August meeting on Monday 8 August at 8 p.m.

Acknowledgement of Local People:

The Chairman ruled that this item be held in private to avoid embarrassment to those discussed. When the public had left a number of local personalities were discussed and it was agreed that "The Freedom of Martley" could be presented to certain persons for service to the community. A ceremony will be arranged in the future

*Tom Pearsall*

*Clerk to the Council*

*01886 888256*

## *Martley Spurs*

The season has come to a pretty good close, all three sides have done much better than they did last year with the final league tables showing the Saturday Premier side in third place, the Sunday Premier eleven in fifth and the Reserves fourth. The Spurs are also the proud winners of two cups. The lovely Martley Cup is once again in their trophy cupboard the Premier eleven having beaten Powick 1 - 0. The game, played on Worcester City's St. George's Lane ground was a hard fought match with Chris Collins netting the only goal in the first half. Powick, however, did not give up easily and really fought back, so many tries which the Spurs' keeper kept out as to warrant Graig Gomersall - the goalie - the title of Man of the Match. The cup itself came with the prize of a brand new set of kit, donated by the Cup sponsors Worcester Tools and Fixings. The entire competition also raised £200 for both the Air Ambulance and The Nora Parsons Day Centre in Wichenford as well as £100 for Hereford Hospitals ICU.



*Beth Williams*

## *Royal British Legion,*

### **Knightswick, Broadwas and Cotheridge with Martley**

The May meeting was well attended and another application for membership was approved and welcomed. All agreed that the Fish & Chip Supper had been enjoyed and that the speaker Joe Walter entertained the company in his own distinctive style! Thanks to Thelma Taber our Social Secretary and to those who supported her on the evening.

Currently arrangements are being made to mark the end of the war in Europe and Japan. This will be in the form of a service at St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas on Sunday 10 July at 11am followed by lunch at The Royal Oak, Broadwas. Members are advised to make their own booking for lunch.

### **Violette Szabo GC Memorial Picnic**

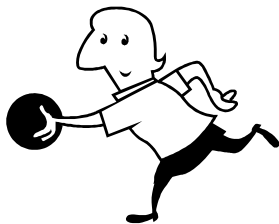
On Sunday 26 June we visited the Violette Szabo GC Museum in Wormelow. Violette was a French woman married to an Englishman and living in Britain during the Second World War. She had a young daughter, Tanya. She was approached by the SOE (Special Operations Executive) and, after what I am sure was much heart searching, she agreed to be trained to decode and pass messages to various groups. She was parachuted into France on 8 June 1944 at 2.30am where she worked with the French resistance and other "cells". She was eventually captured, tortured

and shot by the Germans at the infamous Ravensbrück concentration camp on her birthday, 26 June 1945. She was awarded the George Cross posthumously – this was presented to her daughter Tanya by the King at Buckingham Palace. Tanya attended the Museum on the day as did Virginia McKenna, who played the role of Violette in the film of her life.

*Joyce Tyler, Hon Secretary  
(01886-821551)*

### ***Knightswick and District Trefoil Guild***

Ten of our members met up with eight members of the Worcester Evening Guild for an enjoyable



game of skittles at the Admiral Rodney, Martley. Worcester were the winners: the score was 115 to 102.

Several members attended the A.G.M. in Bath on 11 June, and we were invited to join with the Malvern Guild for their annual "cook out" on 30 June.

*Geraldine Cooper*

### ***Martley & District Horticultural Society***

The Society's Annual Plant & Car Boot Sale was well supported, but unfortunately, due to a terrific storm, the car-booters had to finish early.

Thanks to everyone who donated plants and to all the people who helped on the day. The event raised just over £550 for Society funds.

On Thursday 28 July there will be an evening visit to two gardens. The first is to "The Old Post Office", Shelsley Walsh and the second to Mary Walker's garden at Horsham. Meet at Martley Village Hall car park at 6.45pm.

### **Annual Flower Show**

Schedules for the *Society's 29th Annual Flower Show on Saturday 20 August* at 2pm in the Village Hall and on the Playing Field are now available. They can be collected from Martley Post Office, Central Stores or a Committee member. This year there are 89 classes and 18 trophies to be won. If you haven't any garden exhibits why not try making a 'Pineapple Cake' or some 'Banana and Date Teabread'? Recipes are supplied in the schedule. Or what about entering a bottle of homemade wine or a jar of homemade jam or marmalade?



*Nellie Bradley*

### ***Martley Open Garden***

Meg Griffiths' garden will be open on Sunday 10 July at 1 Prickley Bungalows, Hockhams Lane 2-6pm under the National Gardens Scheme.



## **Martley WI**

### **Wednesday 13 July Sport Martley 7.30pm**

Thanks to our programme secretary, we have had an extremely interesting series of speakers this year. We have heard about the work of Mencap, Patchwork, Living in Saudia Arabia and the National Trust. This month is something totally different. It will be a talk by Dr Lack about the archaeological finds when recent excavations at the Cathedral exposed the body of a possible pilgrim. We are looking forward to hearing more. Anyone interested in historical finds is very welcome to join us at Sport Martley at 8pm. The competition is for a sweet made with summer fruits plus recipe.



Our entries at the recent Spring Rally all received very favourable marks and comments which was encouraging to those members who worked so hard planning, producing and setting up the exhibit. Please note, we meet on the **SECOND** Wednesday of the month, as you know.

*Kate King*

## **Martley Ramblers**

### **Sunday 10 July**

We are well into the 2005 season now and after the double exertions of June, we are now back to just one ramble per month. We aim to leave the Church car park at 2pm prompt for a walk around the Mordiford Loop and Haugh Wood, led by Ken Brookes. Mordiford is about four miles south east of Hereford – a very pretty village, especially when viewed from the old bridge over the River Lugg. It is not a difficult walk, lovely views and surroundings. See you on 10 July. By the way, walks are always on the second Sunday of the month.

*Kate King*

## **Pudford Lane**

Haven't much time to write this month, lots to do in the garden, the orchard and meadow. We are to receive an award from English Nature for the conservation work we have done over the last thirty years on our SSSI. The number of wildflowers, particularly the orchids, are quite amazing in Spring and early summer, not much to see later in the year. It does make all the old-fashioned ways for cutting and rowing-up we have to do, seem worthwhile. Present problems, as in other parts of the village, are caused by the large numbers of rats about. The problem has not been as bad as this since before the Penny Hill Tip was closed and re-instated as a nature reserve.

Anyone willing to volunteer as The Pied Piper of Pudford would be welcomed. The WI might be persuaded to produce a costume. The only problem would be, where could the Piper lead them? Neighbouring villages might not be too happy to receive the rats. Perhaps we could have a procession down to the Teme at Ham Bridge?

*Kate King*

### *News from The Admiral Rodney*

#### **Cherry Tree Photo competition**

Kenneth and Gillian were delighted by the village response to the cherry tree competition. We had people photographing the tree at the crack of dawn, up ladders, using tripods, coercing their dog to look cute—we had it all. There were so many entries and the standard was so high that, following a suggestion by Margaret Jackson, we asked the Worcester Evening News to judge the photographs for us. They duly sent their chief photographer, Sarah Jeynes, who was suitably impressed by all the photos. However a decision had to be made and she judged the winning entry to be the photograph taken by Andy Nickless of Wichenford; Congratulations Andy and a big thank you for all the interest and for those brave enough to submit their entry. Andy's winning photograph will now be enlarged and displayed over the mantelpiece.

#### **Martley Folk Music**

Such talent in a village, what a night, what singing! The inaugural meeting of the Martley Folk club took place at The Admiral Rodney pub on Wednesday 1 June and was a great success. Lots of people turned up and joined a great night of singing and playing. Big thanks to everybody for supporting the event.

The folk nights will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of every month. The next one is Wednesday 6 July. As it is so near American Independence Day, July's theme will be American folk songs. So get out your old L.P.s and start practising because Woody Guthrie, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan are all coming to Martley - maybe!!

#### *July*

This month, 100 years ago, the Treasurer of the Parish Council reported that he had a balance in hand of £1-4s-7d, as 5/- had been spent on an Audit Stamp. The reporting of a letter from the Co-operative Small Holdings Society concluded all the business of the quarterly meeting.

ALB



# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS



Janet Andrews  
01886 888303  
Sheila Richards  
01886 888378

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## *Church Flowers*

3 July Mrs Andrews  
10 July Mrs Richards  
17 July Mrs Whyatt  
24 July Mrs A Banks  
31 July No Service

## *Ladies Fellowship*

The Wichenford Ladies Fellowship hosted the annual gathering of the Diocesan Church Fellowships in May. Members came from near and far in time for the service in our church led by Rev Jennifer Whittaker and Rev D Sherwin. This was followed by a splendid tea in the Memorial Hall where we were helped by other church members, assisted by a small catering company. Then, amidst much fun and laughter, reports from each Branch were given, showing that the organisation is still very much alive. Finally, after a draw to help with costs, farewells were made and a very happy relaxed lot of ladies made their various ways home. We just hope they made it OK.

## *Congratulations*

Congratulations to Jenny and Andrew on their marriage in Wichenford, daughter of Mr & Mrs K Probert and younger son of Mr & Mrs T Sanders. May they have every blessing in the life together.

## *Baby News*



Congratulations to Roger and Samantha Pound on the arrival of their son Oliver George, a brother for Jack, William and Harry.

## *“An Evening with Philip Serrell”*

Wichenford Memorial Hall Management Committee would like to thank everyone that supported our fundraising evening “An evening with Philip Serrell”. We raised the superb amount of £804.50. Grateful thanks to



Philip Serrell for a very interesting quiz that everyone present could participate in, by identifying various antique pieces, and valuing them. It was very enlightening to hear his account of the many aspects of his earlier career, and he was very forthcoming when it came to the questions and answers session. We are very appreciative of Philip giving up his extremely valuable time for our benefit. We are indebted to William and Annie Banks who organised this evening, all members of the Management Committee who sold tickets and everyone who very generously donated raffle prizes. Ken Randall and Dixon Stinton were on the door and Peter Andrews and Margaret Fisher helped with the preparation of the Hall. We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves, and once again many thanks to everyone for their support.

### ***Wichenford 100 Club***

May winner: No. 180. Cara Kimber won £112.

### ***Millennium Green Tidying & Inspection Rota***

Mark Andrews.



### ***Nora Parsons Day Centre***

#### **Help required!**

**The Day Centre is for people of any age who find it helpful to enjoy company and a meal on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am to 3.30pm.**

**We need volunteer helpers and drivers who can help on either or both of these days.**

**We have a few vacancies for new members, so if you would like to join or know anyone who would enjoy the company of others, a hot meal and entertainment, we should be pleased to hear from you.**

**Please telephone 01886-888374, Mondays or Thursdays.**

## ***Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council***

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16 May 2005 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford. Chair Councillor Britten-Long.

### **ELECTIONS**

Chairman. The motion was carried unanimously that Georgina Britten-Long continues as chairman.

Vice Chairman. Councillor Randall agreed to remain as vice chair for another year.

The chairman and vice chairman signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

Representatives to Committees. Nora Parsons Day Centre: G.Britten-Long, J.Panton, K.Randall, and D.Stinton were elected as parish council representatives. Environmental Pollution Officer: G.Britten-Long. Footpath Warden: Councillors Rendall and Wells. Snow and Flood Warden: Councillor Oldfield. Memorial Hall Committee: Cllr Britten-Long, Cllr Randall and Cllr Stinton. Worcestershire Calc Representative: Cllrs Wetherall and Panton were proposed in their absence.

### **REPORTS**

County Councillors Report. Our new County Councillor Mr Davies was congratulated and welcomed to the meeting. He has 10 to 11 parishes in his constituency and will attend as many as possible. The highways

maintenance contract is now Ringway. District Councillors Report. Cllr Williams reported that a single planning committee has been proposed consisting of 15 people from the district.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Nora Parsons Day Centre. Cllr Stinton reported that the Day Centre committee may not exist for much longer due to its amalgamation, awaiting a decision by the Diocesan Board, who own the property. The lease expired on 16 May.

Insurance Policy Review. At present Allianz/Cornhill have the monopoly on parish council insurance but Zurich have supplied proposal forms. The bus shelter should be insured for the sum paid for it. Allianz/Cornhill will be asked for a loyalty guarantee discount.

### **PLANNING**

Application 05/00695/Ful. Conservatory and swimming pool extension for Allsetts Farm and application 05/00634/ful conservatory at Glynheath, Wichenford. It was agreed that a site meeting was needed and arranged for 20th May at 10am. Applications received for comment since the last meeting: 05/00529/ful. Single storey extension on kitchen and bathroom for the Masons Arms, Wichenford. The parish council has no objection to this application, but question the amount of toilets when full to capacity. They would also like the outbuildings to be retained if possible. 05/00686/ful. Garden extension for Colketts Farm,

Wichenford. The parish council discussed this application and has no objection to the proposal. Decisions made by MHDC: 05/00134/Ful. Loosebox stable and equipment/feed store for unit 4 Rimmers Farm has been approved. Application 05/00214FUL-00255/LBC first floor extension to provide two additional bedrooms at Kenswick Mill Barn has been deferred in order that the Northern Area Planning Committee can visit the site for themselves. Malvern Hills Draft Statement of Community Involvement was briefly discussed. All councillors are to read it and comment on the statement, which must be returned to the clerk as soon as possible.

#### FINANCE

The end of year accounts were accepted. It was minuted that Kings Green no longer need money for the completion of the bridlepath on Kingsgreen. Cheques for £46.00 were approved. The parish council resolved not to continue its membership to Community First. Internal/External Audit. The report of the internal auditor was approved and recorded as a clear certificate. The Annual Return was certified for submission to the external auditor, together with bank reconciliation and report on the major variances between 2004/2005. The first half of the MHDC parish precept has been received.

#### ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The annual risk assessment was accepted.

#### HIGHWAYS.

A reply will be sent to Mr Carless (WCC Highways dept) stating that the signs we want have been seen in the county on much wider roads than Barbers Lane. The clerk has written to Ian Bamforth regarding the temporary TRO's on Guises Lane and Rosses Lane that only last another two months. A reply stated that they are currently working on this matter and the TRO's finish at the of August. The council was told that 4x4s are still interested as two turned up on 16 May. The actual end date of the TROs is 12 August. The highways department replied that the B4204 has not had the road markings replaced as the road is being re-surfaced in August.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Included: WCC Compost Awareness Week, Worcestershire Rights of Way Improvements Plan, National Probation Service Magazine, The Trafalgar Weekend, Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, Calc Information and emails, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill and Nalc Audit review. MHDC Community Projects Grant Scheme. Consultation on the Review of the Code of Conduct. (Meeting on 25 May at 7pm.). Sir Michael Spicer Interviews. NPDC display notice.

#### COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

Cllr Rendall has had reports of dog fouling on the pavement in front of Bulmers Bungalows opposite Guises Lane. Complaints have also been received following 20 Ramblers trying

to enter a property at Queens Estate. The clerk was asked to write to the County Council following this incident. Cllr Wells reported that a new bridge has been erected on FP14 opposite Cllr Randall's, the finger post was discovered in a tree nearby. The new gate at the bottom of FP14 has been put up the wrong way round. Footpaths 16 and 18 and the area around the bus shelter have now been strimmed. Cllr Stinton reported that the Phillip Serrell evening at the Village hall raised £800.00, and the raffle raised £152.00. The clerk informed councillors of a training session planned for 27 June at Little Witley Village Hall. The clerk was asked if she could renew the names and addresses for the next meeting and to give one each to the DC and CC.

#### DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

18 July 2005 at 7.30pm Memorial Hall Wichenford.

*Shirley Sanders Clerk to the Council  
(01886 888302)*

#### DOG FOULING

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council has received complaints about repeated dog fouling on the pavements in the village, particularly opposite Guises Lane.

Could we respectfully request all dog owners and walkers to ensure that they do clean-up after their dog, it is not very neighbourly to expect someone else to do it!

#### INSPECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENTS.

All parishioners have a right to inspect parish council documents, however it is emphasised this cannot be allowed to take place at the private residence of the parish clerk.

In the circumstances, any documents can be made available immediately prior to our regular Parish Council meetings or if not convenient then prior appointment with the Parish Clerk at the Memorial Hall.

In the first instance, please contact our Clerk (888302) to identify the particular subject matter and to arrange the viewing.

#### MUD ON ROAD.

This has been a particularly difficult issue for Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council this year. Whilst the often the extreme difficulties in getting crops off the land, particularly in wet weather conditions, are fully appreciated, complaints have been received from motorists and in the circumstances we can only ask responsible landowners and contractors to make every possible effort to limit the depositing of mud on the highway, to make immediate and adequate use of traffic warning notices and wherever practicable to actually remove the hazard from the road surface.

## Moans and Groans

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There have been a couple of thought-provoking series on T.V. recently, the first entitled "Grumpy Old Men" which was followed a few weeks later by the less intriguing "Grumpy Old Women". None of those who took part were really old, but rather middle-aged celebrities expressing their disapproval and frustration about a variety of subjects.

I really empathized with them but also wondered whether their - and my own - irritation with everyday things and events is due to impatience, envy, sheer dislike of so-called progress, or just a longing for a politically incorrect world and for things past. I sat watching them moan and could identify so well with them all and somehow concluding that my own grumpiness is due to this latter thing, i.e. a longing for the "good old days". An age in which the baker brought fresh, unpacked, oven baked bread and cakes to your door, the milkman, the fish monger and butcher called, too; there were no mountains of plastic packaging with no indication of whether it is recyclable or not, no nasty bits hidden below the nice looking top slice, and nothing to even recycle. A time when you could go into a shop and be served personally,

not just help yourself and then stand in an endless queue to pay at the only counter on the entire floor. An age when there was less advertising and what there was showed you what was on offer without someone famous making a fortune telling you to use something they probably would not even consider buying, when

*"Days when ... cricketers could be recognised instead of apparent pyjama-wearing robots so padded and helmetted as to be totally unrecognisable."*

advertising did not invite people to throw ice cream over a new bride - and in the vicar's face - or incite violence in dozens of ways.

Days when you could watch a

football match in which the players played, earned ordinary level wages and rarely got a red card and did not get banned for drug taking; when cricketers could be recognised instead of apparent pyjama-wearing robots so padded and helmetted as to be totally unrecognisable.

This leads me to my favourite moan - health and safety - not that I do not believe in being and having things safe. But ... when trees are cut down because they might fall on someone or a conker or apple just might happen to drop on somebody's head, when, for the same reason hanging baskets, flags, window boxes, etc are banned as are children's games and their sports days, some child has to come last. Not

only physical things are considered dangerous, apparently children are not to be taught about Holy Communion in case they think Christians are cannibals, the Holy Ghost is to be avoided - he is too spooky - and the "Wailing Wall" might make poor little ones think that the Jews are moaners.

Grumpy I am, with reason I think, why should the State tell me what to eat, how much to drink, five litres of water!! why should I, living alone, pay seventy five percent of council tax, why not fifty percent of what two or more pay?. Does a seventy-five-year-old with a free T.V. licence watch less than a seventy-year-old on the same pension? I could grump till the cows come home about speed humps and cameras,



coins to be put in supermarket trolleys, the F word and repeats on T.V. charities using my donations to take out full pages of adverting, litter, red tape, unbelievable politicians, and endless list of moans and groans probably linked to a desire for a simpler, less stressing world which I believe I lived in in the past. But then, memory can be deceptive.

*Beth Williams*



### *All it takes is one Hello*

I took the time to say 'hello'  
 To someone that I didn't know,  
 To someone who was walking by,  
 A look of sadness in her eye.  
 And when she smiled back  
 gratefully,  
 And said a warm "Hello" to me,  
 I realised my little gift  
 Had given both of us a lift:  
 You never know just whom you'll  
 meet  
 Throughout your day on any  
 street.  
 People just like me and you  
 With loneliness and problems too.  
 Yet life is always better when  
 We take the time to be a friend,  
 To someone we don't even know,  
 And all it takes is one 'hello'

(Found in a New Zealand "Home and Country" Journal)

*Nellie Bradley*

## *A Modern Version of the Building of the Ark*



The Lord said to Noah. "Where is the Ark I commanded you to build?" And Noah said, "Verily I have three carpenters off sick. The gopher wood supplier hath let me down – yea, even though the gopher wood hath been on order for nigh upon 12 months. The damp-course specialist hath not turned up", And God said to Noah, "I want the Ark finished before seven days and seven nights," Noah said, "It will be so". And it was not so.

The Lord said to Noah, "What seems to be the trouble this time?" Noah said, "My subcontractor hath gone bankrupt. The pitch for the outside of the Ark hath not arrived. The glazier departeth on holiday to Majorca, yea even though I offered him double time, Shem hath formed a pop group with his brothers Ham and Japeth. Lord I am undone".

The Lord grew very angry and said, "What about the animals, two of every sort I have ordered to come to be kept alive. Where for example are the giraffes?" And Noah said, "They have been delivered to the wrong address, but should arrive on Friday" And the Lord said, "Where are the monkeys and the elephants and the zebras?" Noah said, "They are expected today". The Lord said to Noah, "How about the unicorns?" Noah wrung his hands and wept. "O Lord, Lord, they are a discontinued line, Thou canst not get unicorns for love nor money. Thou knowest how it is" And the Lord said, "Noah my, son, I know. Why else dost thou think I have caused a flood?".

### **The world of business**

Quote from the Boss: "Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say." (Marketing executive, Citrix Corporation)

One day my Boss asked me to submit a status report to him concerning a project I was working on. I asked him if tomorrow would be soon enough. He said, "If I wanted it tomorrow, I would have waited until tomorrow to ask for it!"

## *Sudan Correspondent—Part 6*

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I am not sure whether I will be back for Christmas, such are the difficulties to overcome working in this area. Plans have had to be changed at the very last moment with the proposed journey to Garsila postponed. The offices may have to be evacuated if security deteriorates any further. The land journey to deliver the equipment we had originally arranged to install can't now proceed as the situation has taken a turn for the worse. The goods have to be transported by road as battery acid and gas bottles are involved and there are restrictions regarding transportation of these dangerous items by air.

So, here I am in Western Darfur, the smallest of the three Darfur states in terms of landmass, and this reflects in its primitive character bordering, as it does, upon the country of Chad. El Geneina, the principle town of the region, is quite new to its role as the administrative centre and, I believe, unable to cope with the army of extra

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people descending upon the area. It is a small town, and there is a distinct lack of goods or amenities compared even to Nyala. In other words, there aren't any! I am planning to return to El Fasher, a much larger town situated in Northern Darfur, when the tasks here have been completed.

The aircraft we flew in on was a single-engine high-wing Caravan, a plane with non-retractable undercarriage, belonging to the UN. This does a daily journey around the region in whichever direction seems most practical. It is capable of carrying 12 passengers in relative comfort, or with the seats removed, can be used as a small cargo plane on short hops. We were flying around six to eight thousand feet so our view of the ground was really clear. From the moment we left Nyala until we arrived in El Geneina, the countryside varied little. Only the occasional outcrop of prehistoric volcanic rock, worn down by the centuries, rising above the ground, relieved the flat, almost barren, sand-coloured contours. The dried-up water channels mark a pattern on the parched earth similar to the veins on a leaf but covering a vast area hundreds of miles wide and with no moisture of any kind to be seen. Only a few bushes have managed to survive. The occasional winding dirt scar of a solitary track can be seen stretching away over the horizon like a long thin snake. Every vehicle travelling along these sandy tracks has to cross river beds in the dry season. Without the luxury of a bridge, many vehicles get stuck in the soft sand and have to winch themselves out. At the height of the rainy season, the many streams turn to rivers and it becomes nearly impossible to cross many of them, such is the strength of the water as it rushes down the channels cut by many thousands of years of seasonal

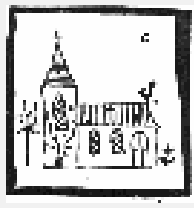


rainfall. Travelling by road in this area of the world is fraught with danger at any time. Goods are always taken in convoy, or at the least by two vehicles travelling together. There are robbers on the lookout for easy pickings along the road. When there are security problems to contend with as well, great care has to be taken in travelling and never without a good supply of fresh water, spare wheels, spare fuel, road springs, etc. From here, conditions gradually improve and vegetation starts to become much greener and more plentiful. The Sahara desert imparts less of an impact on the climate as you move towards the west. It cannot compare with what we have in the English countryside by any stretch of the imagination.

The airstrip in Geneina is of packed sand, and becomes almost impossible to use during the rainy season. Even in the dry season the ground cannot support the weight of a large transport plane, as witnessed by the abandoned, broken and rotting aircraft littering the airfield! With the continuing humanitarian work flowing into the area from all branches of the UN and the numerous different NGO's competing to provide aid, the number and type of vehicles to be seen in Geneina has increased enormously. The many and varied makes of four-wheel-drive vehicles are almost destroying the road structure for the indigenous population. The normal method of travel, before the influx of these monsters, being by donkey, horse, camel or just walking, along previously hard sand packed roads. Two- or four-wheeled horse-drawn carts are the normal method of transporting produce to market. Now these very same carts can be seen struggling along the roads turned into soft, dry, sandy thoroughfares by the thoughtless, speeding drivers in their air-conditioned four-wheel drive vehicles. Apart from the odd transport lorry trundling along at a slow, steady pace, mechanical transport before the crisis occurred was pretty well non-existent. The civil authority are unable or unwilling to control these four-wheel drive monsters. Some pot holes are big enough to swallow a Discovery completely!

Here in El Geneina life is hard for everyone, including visitors. Donkey water, as it is known, is water from the wells distributed around the houses on carts driven by young boys, pulled by those ever long suffering animals. It is certainly not clean and the colour can vary considerably. There always seems to be a certain amount of sand included. Sold by the container, the boys having no idea of gallons or litres, it provides our only source of water. We have no means of boiling sufficient water for drinking, so all water is chlorinated before being put through ceramic filters. It tastes pretty awful but at least it is drinkable. And with temperatures remaining very high we consume vast quantities of water all the time. My daily intake is in the region of six litres! And nearly all is lost through the skin, not by other means!

*John Layton*



# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

My memories of July from when I was at school being the month that would herald the end of term leading to the onset of a long summer holiday. I remember long summer days spent with friends visiting the park, playing cricket, swimming flying model aircraft, making dens, making plans, short term when I was young, longer term as I grew older. What will the new school term be like? Will the work be hard? Will I still be with my friends? Later, what job will I do, what about education after school? Can't wait to drive, what car can I afford? What about girlfriends? Will I ever get married? Where will I live? Many more dreams and plans were lived out and dreamt during those summer holidays.

Being involved with the local schools is a privilege; I see the same hopes and dreams in the children even now. Some I've baptised have now started school, some who had just started have progressed from infants to Juniors (key stage 1 to 2) some have moved to secondary school, some to Chantry, some having left school go to university or start work. Plans have been made for the future on their behalf and in their own right, hopes and dreams have become reality.

I do wish all the young people in our communities the best for their futures whatever lies in store, I also thank them for their capacity to dream, and bring hope to us all. I've had some interesting conversations with young people recently, from a street gang in Worcester, to those who enthusiastically played at church services in Martley, all of them have hopes and dreams, and may they or we, however old we are never lose that capacity. I am reminded what it says in Ecclesiastes chapter 12, 'Remember your creator in the days of your youth', I did and still know him guiding me and enabling me to fulfil those hopes and dreams, he never leaves us, may we never leave him. Enjoy your holidays and I'll see some of you in the new term, and if you go off to University or work every blessing

*Rev David Sherwin*



## *July Services*

<b>3 July</b>	St Thomas' Day
Wichenford	9.30am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Family Worship
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Knightwick	8am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	6.30pm Evensong
<b>10 July</b>	
Wichenford	10.0am Family Service
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Cotheridge	8am Holy Communion
<b>17 July</b>	
Wichenford	6.30pm Evensong
Martley	8am Holy Communion; 11am Morning Worship
Broadwas	11am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	9am Matins
Knightwick	3pm Evening Worship
<b>26 July</b>	
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
Broadwas	8am Holy Communion; 11am Family Service
<b>31 July</b>	
Martley	10.30am Benefice Communion Service

## *Chantry news*

**The Arrow Valley Brass Band**—will be playing at the Chantry High School on Friday 8 July at 7.30pm. It is hoped to arrange seating outside and the audience is invited to bring chairs or blankets to sit on. A bar and barbeque are being provided by the 'Friends'. All the profits from tickets and refreshments will help to fund the garden planned to provide an outdoor social area for the pupils. Arrow Valley Brass Band put on a very popular performance at the school last year. Choirs from the Chantry and Martley Primary School will also be performing. Tickets £3 for adults and £1.50 for children.

### **Big Band Bash**

At the time of going to press we are hoping to put on an evening of live music at the school on Friday 15 July to raise funds for young people orphaned in the tsunami. There will be several bands from the local communities, reflecting the current music scene. Work on the tsunami project by a member of the geography department at the Chantry has highlighted its invaluable work and the school is pleased to offer its support. The event is planned to coincide with the visit to the school of one of the project leaders.

### **End of the School Year**

The School year finishes with the close of school on Friday 22 July.

*I Walker*

# *In the Garden*



## *Garden Tips for July*

Tomatoes need water and liquid feed on a daily basis. Cucumbers will need the tips of plants taken out when they reach the top of support. Potatoes will need spraying to protect the tops from potato blight. A number of fungicides are available; follow manufacturers instructions.

Sow Spring cabbage seed, lettuce, beetroot and turnip seed.

Cuttings of many plants can be taken this month including ceonothus, lavender, weigela, spirea, forsythia and fuchsia, to name a few.

Clean up the strawberry beds, removing straw, dead leaves and unwanted runners.

Prune blackcurrants, cut out old fruiting raspberry canes to ground level and tie in new canes to support.

Dead-head lupins, delphiniums and campanulas as soon as flower heads have finished. Cut the flower stems back to the base of the plant. Lift and store tulip bulbs.

Plant out Autumn crocus, and layer border carnations to encourage new plants.

*Jack Bradley*

### ***Because We're Ladies***

***An evening of interesting opportunities presented by ladies for ladies***

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**On: 7 July 2005**

**At: The Falcon Hotel ballroom, Bromyard**

**Starting: 7:30 pm  
Free entry**

**Call 01886 821998 for details**

## ***New Editor for The Villager***

A new editor has presented himself—at last! - so the future of The Villager is secure once again.

The main contributors and distributors will have a chance to meet the new editor, Andrew Chilvers, at a committee meeting and general get-together planned for July. The current editor, Michelle Higgins, hopes to hand over to Andrew during August.

***Records of the Parish Council meetings in the two parishes are not intended to be full minutes. Minutes of meetings can be seen by contacting the respective Clerks to the Councils***

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